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new view is suggestive and alluring. Probably, also, the results will be embodied in papers and monographs, of the variety disliked by the reading public, because hard to read and harder still to understand. But in time the balance will be restored, the relation of things British and things American will be adjusted, and out of the coördinating process a truer colonial history will be born.

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New Zealand. By ROBERT STOUT and J. LOGAN STOUT. (Cambridge: The University Press. 1911. Pp. 185.)

Students of political and economic conditions in New Zealand should welcome this little book, for it gives an excellent summary of the history of the country and an immense amount of information about its physical features, the people, the chief products, the government and laws, the education system, and the experiments in social legislation that have made the Dominion famous. No man is better fitted to write such a book than Sir Robert Stout, the "Grand Old Man" of New Zealand, who has been intimately connected with public affairs for many years, was twice Prime Minister, has been Chief Justice since the year 1899, and has held many other important offices. In this work he has been ably assisted by his son, J. Logan Stout.

From the point of view of an outsider it seems a pity that the authors have confined themselves almost wholly to description, and have not ventured to give an estimate of the results of New Zealand legislation. It is evident, however, that the hopes of Mr. Reeves, Mr. Tregear, and other ardent reformers have not been fully realized, and that the working people of New Zealand are little, if any, better off than one would expect them to be in a country of such great resources with a population relatively so small. This is the general impression that one receives in reading the book, and it is confirmed by the following passage:—

"The great organization of the State is being used to give an equal chance to all. The New Zealanders may fail, and their experiments may show that the ever-present danger of a true democracy lies in the deadening of individual energy and enterprise by the growth of an all-embracing State interference. But if they fail, their strivings will not have been in vain, though humanity be the poorer for their failure. For the present, they feel that State control is better than to be the slaves of monopolizing companies or autocratic millionaires, or to be strangled in the grip of all-powerful trusts."

The success of social legislation in New Zealand has been very moderate, but, on the other hand, it does not seem to have checked the material progress of the country, as may be seen from the fact that the value of the combined exports and imports for the year 1910 reached the enormous sum of £39,000,000, exceeding by £2,000,000 the record mark of 1907. This is a great volume of foreign trade for a country with scarcely 1,000,000 inhabitants, and shows clearly that a rich country can stand a good deal of social legislation without being brought anywhere near the brink of ruin.

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L'Etat des Classes Agricoles en France à la Veille de la Révolution.

By J. LOUTCHISKY. (Paris: Honoré Champion, Editeur. 1911. Pp. 108. 2 fr.)

Since 1894, Professor Loutchisky has been searching the departmental archives covering the period immediately preceding the Revolution—a task in which the archivists in charge have given expert assistance. The object of the research is the investigation of changes in land ownership and systems of land tenure, and the effect of these changes upon the products of the land and the social condition of owners and laborers. The monograph is in the nature of a partial report, which gives interesting information on conditions disclosed by the investigations, as yet unfinished. The work supplements the study of the same author, published in 1897, “Small Properties in France before the Revolution,” and similar contributions by De Lisle.

The first of the seven chapters of the work is devoted to a very brief resumé of the relations between peasant and lord in the different countries of Europe, and to a consideration of the difference in ownership of land, together with the personal conditions due to these relations. The unequal distribution of land among peasant owners in different parishes of the same province and in different provinces, the development of peasant ownership during the latter half of the eighteenth century, and the increase of small properties by the division and sale of large estates, are discussed, by means of comparative statistics, in the second chapter. Then Professor Loutchisky shows how the changes in ownership of land affected the *corvée* as an incident in the personal relation between peasants and lords. In the feudal conditions obtaining when this